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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of 47 members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 5 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and, referring to the note of 24 March 2006 on the decision of the Government of Ukraine to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council at the elections to be held during the meeting of the General Assembly on 9 May 2006, has the honour to communicate the following.

Ukraine has always attached great importance to the United Nations activities on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our country pays special attention to the issues of combating human trafficking, the elimination of all forms of violence against women, protection of the rights of the child, of persons belonging to national, religious, linguistic or ethnic minorities, the prevention of shameful practices of torture, racism, racial discrimination and any forms of religious intolerance.

The rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which have always represented important values for our country, were further strengthened in Ukraine's practice as internal and foreign policy after the "Orange Revolution". The parliamentary elections held on 26 March 2006 became yet another strong evidence of Ukraine's dedication to the internationally recognized norms and principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Ukraine strongly supported the initiative of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of the Human Rights Council and, if elected, will make every effort to ensure that the Council is able to fulfil its mandate responsibly and effectively through dialogue and cooperation.

The Human Rights Council is mandated to examine the human rights records of all countries, beginning with its members, through the universal periodic review. Ukraine will be ready to come under such scrutiny.

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As a party to all major human rights treaties adopted under the auspices o
United Nations, Ukraine will strictly adhere to their provisions and make
effort to uphold the highest standards of promotion and protection of human r
and fundamental freedoms.